



News Release

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Ferry County: Republic residents urged to boil drinking water

OLYMPIA — The City of Republic is advising residents to boil their water because routine testing detected *E.coli* bacteria in the water. The city's water system serves about 1,400 people.

The state Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water is working closely with the city to find the source of contamination and fix the problem. The water system will be inspected by city and state staff; public works staff is disinfecting the water system.

"Responding to this kind of emergency is our highest priority," said Public Works Director Casey Giddings. "The contamination is under investigation. We're disinfecting the system, and the boil-water advisory will continue until further notice."

Residents should use boiled water or purchased bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, dishwashing, preparing food and making ice. Water should be boiled briskly for 1 minute and allowed to cool before using.

"We're pleased at how swiftly the city responded, and we believe they're taking appropriate action to protect public health," said Denise Clifford, director of the Office of Drinking Water.

The advisory will remain in effect until the city and the Department of Health are confident there is no longer a threat to the system's customers. It's likely to remain in effect at least until early next week.

Customers who have questions can call the city at 509-775-3554 or 509-775-3216.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.